

STORY OF GAMBLERS' GRAFT THAT LED TO MURDER AND SENT BECKER TO CHAIR

Police Raider Was Twice Con- victed and Sent to Death House on Testimony of Men Who Hired the Slayers.

The case of Charles Becker easily leads in the point of public interest, and varied elements in life involved, any criminal proceeding in the history of this country. It even overshadows the case of Harry Thaw, for there was no dispute about the killing of Stanford White by Thaw, while in the Becker case it was admitted that Becker was not present at the murder of Rosenthal and had no actual hand in it.

The charge against Becker was that he instigated the crime, and this charge was supported by the testimony of Jack Rose, "Bridgie" Weber and Harry Valon, all of whom admitted their guilt as co-conspirators with Becker to do away with Rosenthal. They were granted immunity by the District Attorney in return for their evidence against Becker.

The four actual slayers, who poured shots into the victim after he had been lured to the front of the Hotel Metropole early that summer morning, long ago paid with their lives for their crime.

For those mercenaries who bethithered for money there was no need of trial, no skilled twisting and equating around the law by legal lights. They were convicted, their convictions were sustained and they were executed with no great ado. The morning of April 12, 1914, saw the end of "Gyp the Blood," who was Harry Horowitz, "Lefty Louie," who was Louis Rosenberg, "Dago Frank," who bore the name of Cirofici, and "Whitney Lewis," less well known as Jacob Seidenshner.

Two trials had Becker. Twice a jury said quickly and unhesitatingly "Guilty!" The Court of Appeals refused to set aside the second verdict. The United States Supreme Court declined to examine into the case. Charles S. Whitman, twice the prosecutor against Becker and now the Governor, refused to commute sentence to life imprisonment, refused to grant him a few years of exonerate in exchange for a confession of illicit money-taking and out-brooding.

No one who knew his New York, and especially his Tenderloin, was greatly surprised at a statement made to a World reporter on July 13, 1915, by Herman Rosenthal and printed the following morning—to the effect that gambling was running rampant in the city.

Whether it is something to eat or something to wear or anything else, you can get exactly what you want at the right price at stores that display the United Shield, where also you will get United Coupons which are good at all United Premium Stations—for the same premiums given for United Cigar Stores Coupons.

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Four Gunmen Who Suffered Death Penalty For the Actual Killing of Herman Rosenthal



JACOB SEIDENSCHNER HARRY HOROWITZ FRANK CIROFICI LOUIS ROSENBERG

July 16, and tell Mr. Whitman everything he knew. What was New York, ever ready for a bit of scandal, going to hear? What was Becker going to do? The Metropole was just the place where one might have expected to find Herman Rosenthal early in the morning of July 16, later in which day he was to visit the District Attorney. A local game fellow might have kept away, fearing, at the very least, the snipers that follow a squarer, and Rosenthal had been warned to keep away. His wife had begged him not to leave his home that night. Other gamblers had been on his way to the hotel, advised him that he'd be better off if he didn't show himself too much in public under the circumstances.

The gambler had some food and some drinks. Along about a quarter before 3 o'clock, the newsboys outside began calling the morning papers, and Rosenthal stepped to the door of the hotel and bought a set of them, to see what they had to say about him and his forthcoming meeting with "Whitman."

Just about 3 o'clock Rosenthal threw a dollar bill on the table to pay for eighty cents' worth of drinks, gathered up his papers and started for the door. Some say he was summoned there—that a stranger approached him and said: "Herman, some one wants to see you outside." He went out, and there was a group of four men standing close by the doorway, in the glare of several powerful electric lamps which made the spot as light as day. This group had closed about the gambler. Four shots crashed out, almost like an ordered volley.

Rosenthal toppled forward to the sidewalk, with his face downward. But before his body had struck the flagging one of the men—a left-handed man, it was remembered afterward—fired again, directly at his head. The body half spun around and fell on its side.

Across the street, ranged alongside the Cohan Theatre, was a low, gray automobile. Toward this ran the four men who had been standing together. Its motor was running; its driver had foot on clutch pedal and hand on shift lever. In an instant the men had piled in and it was off, eastward, and in another instant had vanished, swinging north into Sixth Avenue.

Byatanders ran to the fallen man, some who moved him, others who didn't. He required no doctor to determine that Herman Rosenthal wasn't going to make any revelations about Charles Becker. His tongue had been cut out.

So sudden was the volley, so swift the escape, that those about the hotel and the street in front were dazed into inactivity. One file, a policeman of duty, had been in the Metropole. He, it seemed, first recovered his senses. Within a few seconds he had his revolver out and aimed at the car which was carrying the murderers, but he could not fire lest he hit pedestrians. The best he could do was to direct a futile chase in a taxicab.

It is said here to say that the car was found to belong to a couple of East Side handy men, Libby and Shapiro. It had been engaged on the night of the killing by one Bald Jack Rose, gambler, friend and accomplice of Bridgie Weber—the same Bridgie who had seen Herman Rosenthal enter the Metropole and who had thereupon helped him to escape. Rose, who was taken into custody, was taken into custody. So was Weber, Rose surrendered himself. Becker was arrested and indicted. In one way or another it became known that four hired professional gunmen were guilty of the actual killing of Rosenthal. Eventually these were all rounded up.

It also became known that there were four men—not actual participants in the crime—who knew all about its plotting and all about its execution. And it became known, in the dramatic personae of the tragedy were arranged thus: Becker—the Man with the Motive. The Gunman—Lefty, Gyp, Dago and Whitney. The Man who hired the slayers—Bald Jack Rose. The Man who helped him to escape—Bridgie Weber. The Man who was taken into custody—Rose, Weber, Libby and Shapiro.

The Informers—Rose, gambler and stool pigeon; Weber, gambling house proprietor and friend of Rose; Harry Valon, a subordinate of Weber, an employee of the poker room; Sammy Schepps, a slick, dapper little lobbyist, or errand-runner, for Rose and Weber. They all knew how and why and at whose order the Forty-fifth Street gambler had been done away with.

There was the situation. There were eight men, all silent at first. Four were guilty. Four had guilty knowledge. Between the groups was Becker, also silent save for denials of his guilt. Would there be, anywhere among the eight men, a squealer? Would some one of them, to save his own skin, let his tongue run loose, reveal the secret of the murder? That was the question then.

There was no hope from the gunmen. They took refuge in absolute wordlessness. They weren't of the type that squeals. But the break came—said it through Bald Jack Rose, the most intelligent, the most mentally resourceful of the lot. It resulted in a dicker between Whitman, representing the State, and Rose, representing the informers. The District Attorney agreed not to prosecute the four, providing they had no hand in the actual killing, in return for their telling him how, why and by whom Rosenthal was killed, and becoming his witnesses when Becker should be sentenced to trial charged with the murder. And so an agreement was drawn up and signed by all hands, and into the hands of Whitman passed the story of Rosenthal's murder from inception to finish.

On Oct. 7, 1915, Charles Becker was placed on trial before Supreme Court Justice Goff charged with murder in the first degree. He was defended by John F. McIntyre, a lawyer famed for his success in criminal cases. He was prosecuted by District Attorney Whitman.

The chief witnesses against him were, of course, Rose, Weber, Valon and Schepps. Far above all stood Rose. He repeated the story that he told to Whitman in exchange for immunity. Cross-examined for an hour after hour, he stuck to it. There was no breaking, even in the smallest of details. His story had the ring of truth. He himself was a crook, a grafter, a gambler, stood pigeon, yes, all this, but he was telling facts now.

Weber, Valon and Schepps followed Rose on the stand. They fitted in such small details as were lacking to make Rose's story perfect. There were forty-four witnesses in all, but none so important as these three.

Becker elected not to go on the witness stand. Perhaps—as he himself now thinks, and as some of his lawyers thought afterward—had he testified, and said: "Yes, I'm a grafter and a thief and a disgrace to my uniform, but I'm not a murderer!" he might have had a chance of acquittal. But he didn't. He sat silent while his lawyers vowed that he was "framed up" by the gamblers, especially by Rose, who wanted Rosenthal out of the way for reasons of his own.

At 4:30 in the afternoon of Oct. 24, the jury retired. At 11:50 that night it sent word to the courtroom that it had reached a verdict. At one minute before midnight the verdict was pronounced—"Guilty of murder in the first degree!"

On Jan. 24, 1916, by a vote of six to one, the Court of Appeals set aside the verdict of guilty and declared that Becker should have a new trial.

On April 15, 1916, just two days after the four gunmen had paid the penalty for their crime, a new trial on the day Becker was awarded one), Becker was arraigned before Justice Seabury, and May 6 was set as the date for his second trial.

Defended by Martin T. Manton, Becker stuck to his first defense, that he was framed up by the gamblers, and did not take the witness stand.

The trial ended on May 23, when the jury, deliberating only one hour and fifty-five minutes, again found Becker guilty of murder in the first degree. Just a week later, on June 23, Justice Seabury sentenced him to die in the week of July 6.

There was another appeal. Notice of this filed on June 15, again acted as a stay. On March 25 of this year the argument for a third trial was made. On May 25 the Court of Appeals denied the motion and affirmed the conviction. Justice Seabury, re-fixing the date of execution as a day in the week of July 12.

POLICEMEN SWEAR STRIKERS STARTED RIOT IN BAYONNE

Testify for 131 Armed Guards in Hearing Before Justice in Jersey City.

BATTLE IS DESCRIBED. Man Who Hired Gun Users Refuses to Answer Questions.

One hundred and thirty-one guards employed in the Tidewater Oil Company's plant at Bayonne, N. J., who were ordered arrested by Sheriff Eugene F. Kinkead when he crushed the Standard Oil strike there were arraigned to-day before Recorder Cain in the Hudson County Court.

Kinkead charged the men with "inciting to riot," and the hearing before Recorder Cain, sitting as an examining Magistrate, was to determine whether the charge should be entertained or the men set free. Policemen who took part in the early rioting outside the Standard Oil and Tidewater plants were the first witnesses called. Among them were Marvin Van Woesert, a mounted policeman, whose right shoulder was dislocated by strikers; Thomas Langtry, whose nose was broken, and Thomas Noonan.

"The strikers were the ones who were looking for trouble," said Van Woesert. "On July 21 they gathered outside the Tidewater plant and began throwing bricks and shooting pistols. I was knocked off my horse and trampled on. The guards came along with locust sticks. They didn't use guns then, but the strikers had pistols and fired them right and left."

"Seven guards were driven into Engine House No. 4 and held prisoner there till Sheriff Kinkead rescued them."

Langtry and Noonan accused the strikers of having tried to "snipe" the Tidewater guards, although it had been charged that the guards did all the "sniping."

The testimony of Detective Joseph Derowski was favorable to the strikers. He said he saw the Tidewater guards firing rifles at groups of strikers these men tried to found the bodies of two strikers who were killed that day.

After Boulevard Policeman John Frost had told how Sheriff Kinkead was rescued from a mob of strike sympathizers who, he said, were trying to kill the Sheriff, L. C. Berghoff, the "Labor Adjuster," who hired the Tidewater guards, went on the stand.

By advice of counsel Berghoff refused to answer the first questions put to him.

"Did you not promise to bring your books here and show just how you employed these men?" asked County Prosecutor Hudspeth.

"I refuse to answer," replied Berghoff.

BACK FROM THE WAR ZONE.
Owen Johnson and Walter Hale Arrive on the Chicago.

The French liner Chicago arrived to-day from Bordeaux. Among the passengers were Owen Johnson, a novelist, and Walter Hale, who writes and acts. Both have been on the battle front in Western Europe. Mr. Hale reported seeing a captured member of the Prussian Guards who was only sixteen years old, and so weak he could not walk without help.

Twenty-four French army buyers of munitions and horses were also among the passengers.

Powder Plant Raises Wages of Men 20 Per Cent.
WILMINGTON, Del., July 30.—The Hercules Powder Company to-day announced an increase of 20 per cent. in the wages of all employees who have been in the service of the company fifteen days. The Hercules Powder Company was one of those separated from the Dupont company as a result of the Government's anti-trust suit against the du Pont corporation. It has several plants and a large number of men are employed.

Suicide Had Claimed to Be Secret Agent of Austria.
GALVESTON, Tex., July 30.—A man giving his name as A. Gross and claiming to be a secret agent of the Austrian Government, hanged himself with his suspenders in a cell in the jail here to-day. He had been arrested charged with swindling. A bank book indicated Gross had lived in Passaic, N. J.

CHICAGO WHEAT AND CORN MARKET.
WHEAT.
Thursday, July 30. Open, High, Low, Close, Change.
1100 July... 110 111 1/4 108 1/4 1 1/4
1000 Aug... 108 109 1/4 107 1/4 1 1/4
1000 Sept... 106 107 1/4 106 1/4 1 1/4

CORN.
Thursday, July 30. Open, High, Low, Close, Change.
700 July... 70 71 1/4 69 1/4 1 1/4
600 Aug... 68 69 1/4 67 1/4 1 1/4
600 Sept... 66 67 1/4 65 1/4 1 1/4

NEW YORK COTTON EXCHANGE.
On first call cotton prices were up 7 to 12 points on trade buying and short covering. Prices eased off.
Oct. 9.40 9.45 9.35 9.30
Nov. 9.20 9.25 9.15 9.10
Dec. 9.00 9.05 8.95 8.90
Jan. 8.80 8.85 8.75 8.70
Feb. 8.60 8.65 8.55 8.50
March 8.40 8.45 8.35 8.30
May 8.20 8.25 8.15 8.10
Market closed steady, up 1 to 5 points.

FEVERISH STOCKS CLOSE AT LOWEST FIGURES OF DAY

Great Falling Off in Sales, With Slump in Prices Following Rally.

A slump, a rally and then a closing at about the lowest figures of the day was the story of to-day's stock market. Sales fell off greatly, the total for the day being only \$39,477 shares against 1,240,592 yesterday and 1,127,890 on Wednesday.

But there were wide fluctuations still to keep the traders on the jump. Bethlehem Steel, after advancing to 269 broke to 255 and then rallied to 267. Crucible Steel took a tumble from 78 1/2 to 68 1/2 and then climbed up to 74 1/2. The rally was led by Westinghouse Electric, which rose to a new high mark at 113 1/4.

Copper issues showed increased strength, although there was no change in the general metal market conditions.

The railroad stocks began a rise early in the afternoon, Reading leading, with New York Central and Union Pacific close on its heels. St. Paul rallied from 79 1/2 to 80 1/2. Reading advanced 2 1/2 points to 149 1/2, Union Pacific 1 1/2 to 129 1/2, and New York Central made 3/4 of a point to 89.

United States Steel rallied with the rest of the issues in the afternoon, going to 67 1/2 after the break to 66 1/2. American Locomotive opened at 57, dropped to 54 1/2, and then went to 55, Baldwin Locomotive opened at 74 1/2, and went to 82. Allis-Chalmers, starting at 20, followed the list to 23 1/2.

One explanation of the activities of Crucible Steel offered in Wall Street to-day was that most of the Pittsburgh millionaires who have heretofore gone to Europe to spend their money in the summer are now remaining at home and using their funds for the excitement of stock speculation. Pittsburgh sent a rumor to this city that Crucible Steel had received a \$30,000,000 government contract.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation has not only booked orders totalling \$250,000,000, mainly for war materials, according to a report in the Street, but negotiations are said to be pending to add considerably to this sum. The company's new steel bar mill is expected to begin operations in October with a capacity of 30,000 tons a day, which will materially aid the works in producing ordnance.

GOMPERS, REPEATING CHARGE, MAKES DENIAL

Claims He Did Not Use Word "German" in Saying Foreign Influences Tried to Start Strikes Here.

WASHINGTON, July 30.—President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor to-day reiterated his charge that foreign influences had been working to make strikes in the United States and called upon the workingmen to discountenance such attempts. Gompers made public his correspondence with the Central Federated Union of New York which was being conducted by agents attributed to Mr. Gompers that "officers of international unions had received money to pull off strikes in Bridgeport and elsewhere in ammunition factories."

"I never mentioned international unions," wrote Mr. Gompers, "nor did I use the word 'German,' nor did I mention Bridgeport, nor did I refer to any of the men named. What I did say was that authentic information had come to me that efforts had been made to corrupt men for the purpose of having strikes inaugurated among seamen and longshoremen engaged in handling American products and manning ships for European ports; that the corrupting influence was being conducted by agents of foreign Governments and that I had no doubt the same agencies and influences were at work elsewhere with the same purpose in view."

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ORIGINAL
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Four, 95c.
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BROKAW BROTHERS
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Reduced to
\$20
Former prices, \$32, \$30, \$28 & \$25
Another allotment of fine worsted suits just added—ample variety of designs and colors.

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SEIZES EASTLAND WRECK

Federal Officers Likely to Be Accused in State Attorney's Inquiry.

CHICAGO, July 30.—Acting under orders of Federal Judge Landis, United States Marshal J. J. Bradley seized the wreck of the Eastland this morning and placed it in charge of the officers of the Department of Justice.

Robert Reid, United States Inspector of Steamboats, with headquarters at Grand Haven, Mich., was recalled to the stand to-day at the inquiry conducted by Secretary of Commerce Redfield. He said he first inspected the Eastland in 1906 when the boat was allowed to carry 3,000 passengers. He inspected her again in 1914. "At that time," he said, "I found the general condition of the steamer and her life saving apparatus good. I gave her a capacity of 2,045."

GROUT'S APPEAL FILED.

Move of His Counsel Based on Different Decisions of Judges.

Stephen C. Baldwin filed in the office of the County Court in Brooklyn this afternoon notice of appeal from the conviction of Edward M. Grout. Mr. Grout was found guilty of perjury and sentenced to one to two years' imprisonment at hard labor in Sing Sing for making a false report of the affairs of the Union Bank, of which he was President.

Mr. Baldwin appeals from the decision of County Judge Lewis denying a new trial and from various intermediate orders during the proceedings against Mr. Grout. There are Justice Scudder's denial of the motion to dismiss the indictment on May 15, 1914, upon the minutes of the Grand Jury, the order of Justice Benedict, Nov. 12, 1914, denying the motion to set the case down for speedy trial, and the order of Justice Jaycox, March 11, 1915, denying a change of venue.

One Day EXCURSIONS
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\$1 NEXT SUNDAY—Also Every
Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
Lv. Jersey City, 8:30 a.m.;
Lv. Hoboken, 9:15 a.m.;
Lv. Newark, 10:00 a.m.

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NEXT SUNDAY
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Lv. Hoboken, 9:15 a.m.;
Lv. Newark, 10:00 a.m.

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Old Black Joe
Believe Me If All Those
Endearing Young Charms

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